

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,509,773 to Buchwald ("Buchwald"). The rejection is overcome by the amendment here which incorporates allowable subject matter from dependent claim 19.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3 and 25 stand rejected as being obvious over Buchwald. To overcome this rejection, claim 1 has been amended to recite a phase controller having a plurality of voltage controllers each with its own charge storage circuitry to generate the interrelated control signals, respectively. Phase update logic is to generate charge and discharge signals based upon a comparison signal, to act upon the charge storage circuitry of each of the voltage controllers. [No new matter has been added. See Figs 2 and 5 as well as paragraph [0041] of the specification as filed.] Buchwald does not teach or suggest the use of such voltage controllers.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the phase controller 302 of Buchwald is mentioned as producing a plurality of digital control signals 340, which allegedly correspond to the claimed interrelated control signals. In this case, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the interrelated control signals are generated by voltage controllers and accordingly are not digital signals. This is further clarified by reciting charge storage circuitry in each voltage controller, where the charge and discharge signals provided by the phase update logic are to act upon this charge storage circuitry which is used to generate the interrelated control signals. Buchwald does not use this type of mechanism for its phase controller 302. There is no suggestion to modify the phase controller of Buchwald into one as recited in Applicant's claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated or obvious in view of Buchwald.

As to claim 25, this claim has been amended to overcome the rejection in view of Buchwald by including subject matter that was indicated as being allowable taken from claim 26.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 19, 21-24 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Upon entry of this amendment, claim 6 is allowable for at least the reasons given above in support of amended claim 1, claim 19 has been rewritten, claims 21-23 have been rewritten, and claim 26 has been rewritten. Accordingly, all independent claims following entry of this amendment are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Any dependent claims not mentioned above are submitted as not being anticipated or obvious, for at least the same reasons given above in support of their base claims.

It should be noted that not all of the assertions made in the Office Action, particularly those with respect to the dependent claims, have been addressed here, in the interest of conciseness. Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the assertions made in the Office Action by the Examiner, with respect to the relied upon art references and how they would relate to Applicants' claim language.

CONCLUSION

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

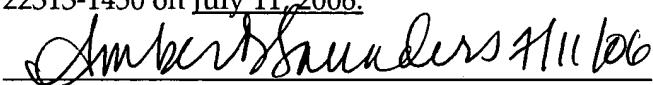
Dated: July 11, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 11, 2006.


Amber D. Saunders July 11, 2006